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P24802.A02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobuhiro TANI et al.

Group Art Unit : 2613

Appl. No. : 10/811,974

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : March 30, 2004

Confirmation No. : 2992

For : ENDOSCOPE SYSTEM FOR FLUORESCENT OBSERVATION

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
220 20th Street S.  
Customer Window, Mail Stop \_\_\_\_\_  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,

Applicants hereby call to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-70384, which was published on March 18, 1997 and is mentioned on page 2 of the specification of the present application, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,099,466 to SANO et al., which issued on August 8, 2000;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-557, which was published on January 9, 1996, together with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,701,903 to SANO et al., which issued on December 30, 1997; and

U.S. Patent No. 6,471,636 to SANO et al., which issued on October 29, 2002.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed

herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending, commonly assigned patent application:

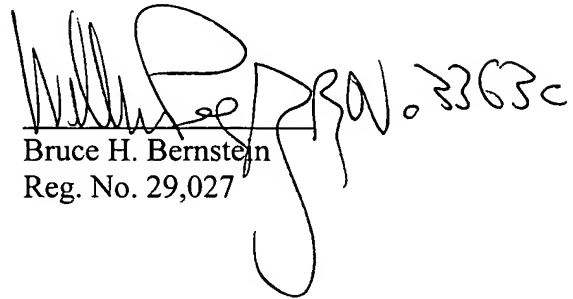
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/770,483 to KOBAYASHI, entitled "Video Endoscope System," which was filed on February 4, 2004.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-noted application is attached. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nobuhiro TANI et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein  
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July 6, 2004  
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Application No.  
10/811,974

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Group  
2613

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DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.